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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

NSC Reg. (P.F.)

INT 787/1

319

June 11, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Kennan
General Wedemeyer
Admiral Struble
General Worstad

SUBJECT: Proposed NSC Directive

REFERENCE: NSC 10

The NSC Staff has prepared a proposed NSC Directive, which is enclosed herewith. It is requested that you indicate your concurrence or non-concurrence with the enclosure through your respective NSC Staff members at the earliest practicable date. It is not planned to call a consultants' meeting on this proposed directive unless you advise us that you consider it to be necessary.

James S. Lay, Jr.
Assistant Executive Secretary

cc: Admiral Millenkoetter
General Gruenther
Mr. Chly

Declassified/Released on 3/1/81
By the National Security Council
under provisions of E.O. 12055
by *B. Regan*

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INT 787/2 COPY NO. _____

June 10, 1954

PROPOSED NSC DIRECTIVE

1. The National Security Council, taking cognizance of the vicious covert activities of the USSR, its satellite countries and Communist groups to discredit and defeat aims and activities of the United States and other Western powers, has determined that, in the interests of world peace and US national security, the overt foreign activities of the US Government must be supplemented by covert operations.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency is charged by National Security Council with conducting espionage and counter-espionage operations abroad. It therefore seems desirable, for operational reasons, not to create a new agency for covert operations, but to place the responsibility for them within the structure of the Central Intelligence Agency and correlate them with espionage and counter-espionage operations under the overall control of the Director of Central Intelligence.

3. Therefore, under the authority of Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs that in time of peace:

a. Covert operations and planning and preparation for the conduct of such operations in time of war or national emergency shall be conducted by a new Office of Special Projects to be created within the Central Intelligence Agency.

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b. A highly qualified person nominated by Secretary of State and acceptable to the Director of Central Intelligence and approved by the National Security Council, shall be appointed as Chief of the Office of Special Projects.

c. The head of the Office of Special Projects shall report directly to the Director of Central Intelligence for purposes of security and of flexibility of operations under conditions of peace and war, and to the maximum degree consistent with efficiency, the Office of Special Projects shall operate independently of other components of Central Intelligence Agency.

d. There shall be established an Operations Advisory Committee composed of one representative of the Secretary of State and one representative of the Secretary of Defense. These representatives shall be provided assistants and staffs as necessary by their respective Secretaries. The functions of this Committee shall be:

(1) To furnish authoritative policy guidance on covert operations to the Director of Central Intelligence.

(2) To assist in the preparation of all plans for such operations. In disagreements arising between the Director of Central Intelligence and a member of the Operations Advisory

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Committee over such plans, the matter shall be referred to the National Security Council for decision.

g. The Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for:

(1) Ensuring through the Operations Advisory Committee that covert operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with US foreign and military policies and with overt activities, and that plans for wartime covert operations are also acceptable to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as being consistent with and complementary to approved plans for wartime military operations.

(2) Informing appropriate agencies of the US Government, both at home and abroad, (including diplomatic and military representatives in each area), are kept informed of such operations which will directly affect them.

f. Supplemental funds for the conduct of the proposed operations for fiscal year 1949 shall be immediately requested. Thereafter operational funds for these purposes shall be included in normal Central Intelligence Agency Budget requests.

4. In time of war or when the President directs, covert operations shall be conducted under the direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under appropriate organizational arrangements to be recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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and approved by the National Security Council.

5. As used in this directive, "covert operations" are understood to be all activities (except as noted herein) which are conducted or sponsored by this Government against hostile foreign states or groups or in support of friendly foreign states or groups but which are so planned and executed that any US Government responsibility for them is not evident to unauthorized persons and that if uncovered the US Government can plausibly disclaim any responsibility for them. Specifically, such operations shall include any covert activities related to propaganda; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance movements, guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, and support of indigenous anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world. Such operations shall not include armed conflict by recognized military forces, espionage, counter-espionage, and cover and deception for military operations.

6. This Directive supersedes the directive contained in NSC 4-A, which is hereby cancelled.

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